

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGUI 01699 101849Z

43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 COME-00 /019 W

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R 101610Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7606

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGUI 1699

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: STATUS OF SCED DISPUTE

REF: STATE 223114

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL WE CONTACTED COPPERMAN RE ACTIVITIES OF FIRST ARABIAN CORPORATION. IT IS CORRECT THAT FIRST ARABIAN HAS BEEN GIVEN EXTENSIVE MINING RIGHTS INCLUDING AREA ORIGINALLY ALLOTTED TO SCED. IT APPEARS THEY HAVE ALSO ENGAGED IN LIMITED DIAMOND BUYING IN BANGUI AND IN THE FIELD. NEITHER COPPERMAN NOR WE HAVE ANY REASON TO THINK THAT SCED PROPERTIES OR EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER TO FIRST ARABIAN.

2. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EARLY RESPONSE TO ROGERS' TELEGRAM. BOKASSA HAS BEEN TRAVELLING CONTINUOUSLY FOR LAST TEN DAYS, AND FURTHER TRAVELS APPEAR TO BE IN THE OFFING TO EUROPE AND EGYPT. ALL CONCERNED MINISTERS, INCLUDING BANGUE-TANDET, TRAVEL WITH HIM AND HENCE IT HAS NOT EVEN BEEN POSSIBLE TO NUDGE THEM ON RESPONSE. IN ADDITION, FOR NEXT FEW DAYS BANGUI WILL BE GIVEN OVER TO FESTIVITIES ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF THE VIRTH OF PRINCESS (SIC*) ANNE, BOKASSA'S TWENTY-NINTH CHILD. REALISTICALLY WE, AND JOLIS, MUST ASSUME THAT OFFER TO NEGOTIATE IN PERIOD SEPTEMBER 20-27 WILL NOT BE TAKEN UP BY BOKASSA. AS OCCASION PRESENTS ITSELF WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR RESPONSE AND DESIGNATION OF PRECISE DATES FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

QUAINTON

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